



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



November 15, 2001

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

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J. Dale Givens
Secretary

For Immediate Release

LDEQ Statement

RE: Hillside Trailer Park Contamination Area

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has notified several residents and property owners in Broussard, Louisiana about nearby groundwater contamination and is working with the Department of Health and Hospitals to ensure clean drinking water by recommending affected residents to be connected to the public water supply.

Recent results from quarterly well water testing in the Hillside Trailer Park area showed substances of potential concern at five wells including 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethene (Trichloroethylene), 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethene, Toluene, Vinyl Chloride, and Methylene Chloride. Three substances, Trichloroethylene, 1,1-Dichloroethene and Vinyl Chloride were detected above Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

The results from all other wells tested in the area were clean. However, the pattern of test results indicate the possibility that contamination may be moving through the ground water from the Hillside Trailer Park area to the west. Those residents or property owners identified as depending on well water in this area of ground water flow were given notice of this possibility and provided information on potential health effects of these substances.

On or about December 20, 2000, LDHH notified LDEQ that during its normal triennial chemical sampling event, Trichloroethylene (Trichloroethene) was detected in wells located at Hillside Trailer Park (wells number one and two), off Mineral Road, Broussard, Louisiana, at concentrations above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The wells are not in use and should remain at that status. LDEQ initiated its own sampling event and confirmed LDHH results. LDEQ launched an investigation in order to identify potential sources of contamination. Since the source of contamination was not clear, LDEQ initiated quarterly sampling of all Hillside Trailer Park wells and nearby wells. The sample results were shared with residents and property owners.

The Department has not yet determined the source of the contaminants in the area or the full extent of the contamination. LDEQ will continue to monitor all wells in the area to determine more accurately the extent and source of the contamination and will inform residents when additional information is available.

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